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DEPUTY WHIP

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Environment and Public Works

Foreign Relations

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Special Committee on Aging

United States Senate

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September 6, 2007

BY HAND
IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUESTED

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

I write to urge you to schedule Senate floor passage of the Water Resources Development Act Conference Report for absolutely as soon as possible, and definitely during September. As a Senate negotiator on the Conference Committee, I very much appreciate the general support you've shown for WRDA. Quick passage in the Senate is the concrete action that is needed now. We must not allow the Iraq debate or anything else delay this vital measure.

Levee failures associated with Hurricane Katrina and the Interstate 95 bridge collapse in Minnesota are two recent examples of the dangers of under-investing in our nation's key infrastructure. More than a thousand lives were lost in these tragedies that may have been prevented by timely, diligent infrastructure assistance from the federal government.

Quick passage of the Water Resources bill is an opportunity to prevent the loss of additional lives and to fulfill a commitment you made to Louisiana nearly two years ago – to rebuild a stronger levee system in Louisiana.

The WRDA bill authorizes billions of dollars in vital hurricane, flood and coastal protection measures in Louisiana. It builds higher and stronger levees in the greater New Orleans area, initiates a multi-billion dollar comprehensive protection and restoration program for coastal Louisiana, closes the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, fully authorizes the long-overdue Morganza to the Gulf hurricane protection project, deepens access to the Port of Iberia while improving flood protection for Vermillion Parish, and solves dredging and regulation problems on the Calcasieu River. Further delays would impede progress on key components of the hurricane protection system, and Louisiana cannot and should not be forced to gamble through another hurricane season unprepared.

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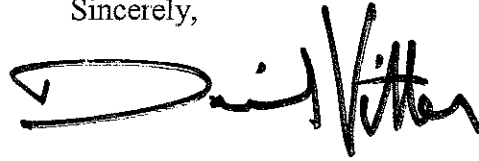
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Having been involved in the development of the bill for three years as a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and now the Conference Committee, I assure you that the bill has strong bipartisan support and will become law. Again, I urge you to schedule passage of this important legislation for as soon as possible and definitely during September.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Vitter". The signature is stylized, with a large, sweeping "D" and a cursive "Vitter".

David Vitter
U.S. Senator